

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:129

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017

Fluoride and Arsenic in Drinking Water

Baker Shri George

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the States affected due to fluoride and arsenic contamination in drinking water across the country;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water to these States;
- (c) whether the Government is providing any special assistance to these States in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the targets fixed for these States, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is satisfied with the achievements made in these States, if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard along with the future planning for next three years, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the budgetary provisions made, funds released and utilized for tackling contamination in drinking water during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.129 due for reply on 09.03.2017

- (a) As reported by the States into the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), the number of rural habitations affected with excess arsenic and fluoride in drinking water as on 04/03/2017 is at Annexure-I.
- (b) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India assists the State Governments technically and financially in providing safe drinking water through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, upto 67% of funds earmarked to States can be utilized for coverage and tackling water quality problems thus ensuring provision of safe drinking water.
Since prolonged consumption of excess arsenic and fluoride in drinking water can lead to variety of health problems, Government of India with the recommendation of NITI Aayog has released Rs 800 crore for providing community water purification plants in arsenic and fluoride affected habitations as a short term measure so that 8-10 litres per person per day of safe water is made available for drinking and cooking purposes till the long term solution of surface water based piped water supply scheme is commissioned which may take 3-4 years for completion, subject to availability of funds.
- (c) Under the centrally sponsored NRDWP, the Government has opened a new window called "National Water Quality Sub-Mission" for remaining arsenic and fluoride affected habitations. This Sub-Mission provided financial assistance to States ring fencing the capital cost only to population of arsenic and fluoride affected habitations on cost sharing basis of 50:50 between Centre and State (90:10 for NE and Himalayan States). Cost of supply of safe water to enroute non-arsenic and non-fluoride affected habitations have to be met fully by the respective State Government. Funds to the tune of Rs 814.14 crore released to ongoing Sub-Mission schemes during 2016-17 along with number of arsenic/ fluoride affected habitations to be targeted for coverage with safe drinking water is at Annexure-II.
- (d) Provision of safe drinking water through piped water supply schemes is a continuous process and would take certain time. However, this is a top priority area of the Government and every effort is put to ensure that safe water is made available in the arsenic and fluoride affected habitations. In order to provide safe drinking water in all remaining arsenic and fluoride affected habitations an estimate of capital cost required is made by the Government and funds estimated for the next 3-4 years State/UT-wise is given at Annexure-III. For the year 2017-18, under Sub-Mission programme, an amount of Rs 1,000 crore has been allocated as central share and depending upon the progress made by States, suitable allocation for the next three years will be made, subject to availability of adequate funds.
- (e) The funds allocated released and utilized under the NRDWP (which interalia include the important component of tackling contamination of drinking water) during the last three years and current year till 04.03.2017 is at Annexure-IV.
